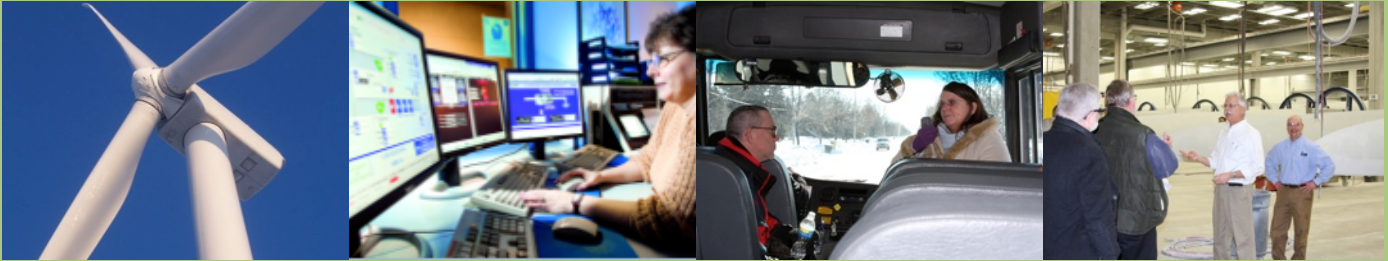


Overview Summary: Clean Energy Solutions Showcase



January 27, 2010 Grand Forks, ND

Local leaders got a glimpse of the clean energy economy in action.

The Clean Energy Solutions Showcase featured tours of local clean energy projects and comments from the Mayor of Grand Forks, the President of the University of North Dakota and officials with LM Glasfiber, a manufacturer of wind turbine blades employing 700 people in Grand Forks.

The clean energy economy is the fastest growing segment of North Dakota's economy, with job growth in that sector outpacing growth in other sectors at a rate of 3 to 1, according to a 2009 study by the Pew Charitable Trusts. The Center for American Progress found that transitioning to a clean energy economy will create more than 4,500 jobs in North Dakota, reduce harmful carbon pollution, and ease U.S. dependence on foreign oil. A recent event in Grand Forks showcased some examples of clean energy solutions in action.

The event started with remarks on the clean energy economy from Carmen Miller with the Pew Environment Group (PEG). After an introduction from Jason Schaefer with the National Wildlife Federation, Grand Forks Mayor Michael Brown spoke about the city's efforts to lower its carbon footprint. Mayor Brown signed the Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement in 2007 when there were just a few hundred Mayor's signed on. Today, there are over 1,000.

Mayor Brown spoke about his Green3 committee that is assigned with three goals - Clean the Environment, Increase Efficiency and Save Money. As part of these efforts, Grand Forks has hired a sustainability coordinator - a first for the state.

“The point is, these clean energy solutions do have a place right here. In fact, they have more than a place, they have a purpose. They are good for our community. They reflect our values, they inspire innovation and they give us a place in the front row of developing practical solutions to national and global challenges.”

-From Mayor Brown's remarks at the Showcase



Carmen Miller from PEG kicks off the event while Jason Schaefer (NWF) and Mayor Brown look on.

The Mayor's remarks were followed by a tour of the city's traffic light synchronization project. That project saves over 200,000 gallons of gasoline each year while reducing travel time and stress for commuters. More projects are on tap including a methane recovery project at the landfill, efficiency retrofits of existing city buildings and the addition of two new hybrid buses for the Cities Area Transit system.

Next, the group heard from UND President Robert Kelley. Kelley noted that the university has signed onto the American College and University President's Climate Commitment.

As part of this commitment, the campus has conducted a greenhouse gas inventory, formed a Council on Sustainability and is nearing completion of a long-range plan to address energy and climate issues. In addition, UND has a strong research presence in low-carbon energy technology. The university has a number of programs focused on environmental and energy issues and continues to develop new programs in these areas to meet increased student demand.

Technology Advancement Coordinator, Randy Bohlman gave a presentation highlighting the UND's efforts to increase energy efficiency.

Everything from lighting retrofits to installing low-flow showers in the residence halls has led to a marked decrease in energy use. While square footage across campus has increased, energy use has decreased thanks to these smart investments. The university has averaged a six-year return on investment for these projects. Bohlman's presentation was followed by a tour of the University's energy command center where staff can monitor and control energy usage across campus. Overall, the university's efforts have led to a 12% decline in greenhouse gas emissions over the past decade.



President Kelley gives the group an update on UND's efforts to be a leading institution in the transition to a low-carbon era.

Following the visit to UND, the tour moved to LM Glasfiber, a manufacturer of wind turbine blades. John Jenó, Senior Manager Engineering and Dan Gordon, Senior Manager Human Resources, pointed to the Grand Forks plant's world-class productivity which they attributed to the skill and work ethic of the local workforce. That productivity helped the Grand Forks plant come out of the 2008-2009 credit crisis relatively unscathed.

According to Jenó, customers have been known to request that their blades come from the Grand Forks plant.



LM Glasfiber officials, John Jenó (foreground) and Dan Gordon (background) lead a tour of the facility.

LM Glasfiber opened its Grand Forks plant in 1999. The company now employs more than 700 people, making LM the largest manufacturing employer in Grand Forks. Most of the engineers at the Grand Forks location are UND graduates. During the tour of the factory floor, attendees saw the company's growth first hand while walking through an addition to the initial building, then walking to a neighboring facility LM expanded into to accommodate their extraordinary growth.

The Showcase was enjoyed by all who attended. Guests included two city councilmen, a county commissioner, two state legislators, university and city officials, an economic development consultant, a local banker and member of the GF Young Professional Network.

The event was covered by WDAZ (local ABC affiliate) and the Grand Forks Herald. These are the two largest media outlets in Grand Forks. After the event, Carmen Miller from Pew appeared live on Dakota Huseby's popular afternoon talk radio show. In addition, Prairie Business Magazine plans to run a summary of the event and the UND television program, Studio One, will be doing a story highlighting the university's efforts.

The Clean Energy Solutions Showcase was organized by local staff with the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) and the Pew Environment Group (PEG). NWF and PEG worked under the auspices of the North Dakota Climate Solutions Partnership (NDCSP) <NDClimateSolutions.org>. The partnership includes mainstream faith, agriculture, conservation and environmental groups. NDCSP members are the Environmental Law & Policy Center, Ducks Unlimited, Prairie Climate Stewardship Network, North Dakota Farmers Union, National Wildlife Federation, Pew Environment Group, and the Foundation for Agriculture and Rural Resource Management and Sustainability.

The real key to the event's success was the partnership with the City of Grand Forks and Mayor Michael Brown's office, the University of North Dakota, and LM Glasfiber. Special thanks to all who helped organize the event including: Pete Haga - Grand Forks Mayor's office; Juan Pedraza, Larry Zitzow, Peter Johnson and Randy Bohlman - UND; John Jenó and Dan Gordon - LM Glasfiber.



Resources

City of Grand Forks Green3

<http://www.grandforksgov.com/gfgov/home.nsf/GreenPages/Green+Home>

University of North Dakota

<http://www.und.edu/dept/facilities/energy/Energy.htm>

LM Glasfiber

<http://www.lmglasfiber.com/>

ND Climate Solutions Partnership

www.NDClimateSolutions.org

Media

Published January 27 2010

Clean Energy Solutions Showcase in Grand Forks

Cleaner air all year round is something that the City of Grand Forks along with business in the area is working towards.

<http://www.wdaz.com/event/article/id/1446/>

By: **Jen Dame**, WDAZ

Cleaner air all year round is something that the City of Grand Forks along with business in the area is working towards.

A group of community leaders met today for a Clean Energy Solutions Showcase. They started at City Hall then proceeded around the community to UND and LM Glasfiber.

The purpose was to showcase good clean energy work currently being done in North Dakota and the Grand Forks area.

One of the items highlighted was the commitment of Grand Forks to having two hybrid busses up and running this summer.

"The economy is moving towards a clean energy economy and you want to get in on the bottom floor and you want to innovate sooner rather than later and you want to take a leadership position and that is what is happening here in Grand Forks and it puts us in a real good position going forward," says Jason Schaefer, ND Rep. for National Wildlife Federation.

I have more on the Universities efforts to go green on the evening report on Sunday.

Published January 28 2010

Going green gains momentum in GF

Officials from the city, county and UND gathered at Grand Forks City Hall to start a publicity tour Wednesday to tout efforts to be “green,” in saving energy and using clean energy more.

By: [Stephen J. Lee](#), Grand Forks Herald

http://www.grandforksherald.com/event/article/id/149317/publisher_ID/40/

Officials from the city, county and UND gathered at Grand Forks City Hall to start a publicity tour Wednesday to tout efforts to be “green,” in saving energy and using clean energy more.

Mayor Michael Brown said the city has taken key steps to be “practically green,” including synchronizing traffic lights to save stopping and starting by commuters, at an estimated savings of 200,000 gallons of gasoline a year. The city also will buy two hybrid – battery and fuel powered – buses in the next year to compare with diesel-powered buses to see which works best and greener, Brown said.

The city is trying to expand and improve recycling of trash, and a plan to generate methane from the landfill.

A tour of LM Glasfiber showed how it’s become a major force in making the giant blades used on electric-power-generating wind towers.

Employing about 700 people, the plant made about 2,400 blades last year, and in its first decade has made enough to provide power to 2.2 million homes, selling them in nearly every state and several nations, company officials said Wednesday.

UND officials said they have cut greenhouse gas emissions by 12 percent the past decade and a plan to cut them to zero in a few more decades.

Using a “farm” of six giant diesel generators to provide emergency and supplemental power during peak times gives UND a rate break from power providers that nets about \$250,000 in savings per year, said Randy Bohlman, technology advancement coordinator.

The tour and showcase was organized by new North Dakota Climate Solutions Partnership, a coalition of several groups, including the North Dakota Farmers Union, Ducks Unlimited, National Wildlife Federation and the Prairie Climate Stewardship Network of several church denominations.

For more information, contact Jason Schaefer of the National Wildlife Federation at (701) 741-0709; e-mail jason.m.schaefer@gmail.com.

Reach Lee at (701) 780-1237; (800) 477-6572, ext. 237; or send e-mail to slee@gfherald.com.

WDAZ had a feature on UND’s sustainability efforts that aired on January 31. The video is titled “UND Going Green” and can be found at: <http://www.wdaz.com/event/videos/>